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922 As a result of the recent barbaric Japanese invasion of China and the great influx of modern people and ideas from down-river into the Basin during the past few years, a renaissance has begun in Szechuan Basin. The Basin is now undergoing an economic awakening. It is in a state of rapid transition, induced and intensified by the exigencies of the war.

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654 Since the migration of the National government into the Basin, every possible means has been utilized and every feasible plan is being drawn up to increase the efficiency of land use in the Basin. Mention may be made of a few striking examples.

241 In agricultural land use, various measures have been devised to cope with the inefficient traditional Tung Shui Tien field system; the acreage in Tsai Seng Tao variety rice has been extended; cotton culture has been expanded; the cultivated acreage of herb plants has been increased; more modern sugar refineries have been built, experimental stations have been established, and a number of new varieties of sugar cane have been introduced; silk-culture has been organized and operated on a more scientific basis; a number of tea-growers' cooperatives have been found recently; and above all, the practices in fertilization, terracing, erosion control, and irrigation works have been improved.

178 With the introduction of more modern methods of processing, the numerous agricultural and forestry products of the Basin are being put into more efficient utilization. The increasing manufacture of alcohol and wines from grains, the making of charcoal from wood, and the preparation of synthetic gasoline from tung oil are notable examples. These innovations not only meet the various emergent war needs, especially that of fuel supply, but also help to solve the still difficult transportation problem by transforming the bulky agricultural and forestry products into lighter and more transportable forms.

313 In forestry land use, significant improvements have already taken place. A number of large corporations, financed either by government or private interests, have recently organized to survey intensively and to exploit systematically the rich forestry
314 resources of the Basin. Numerous attempts have been made to improve tung tree production, including the establishment of more tung tree plantations and experimental stations, the supply of modern equipment, and the efficient organization of marketing facilities. Besides, the recent completion of the west branch of

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231 In spite of what has been said above, the silk produced by the wild species is, on the whole, inferior in quality and is negligent in quantity in the Basin. The major portion of silk produced in the Basin, about 80 per cent of the total, is derived from the regularly mulberry-fed, domesticated species--the Bombyx mori.

Silkworm rearing takes place twice a year in Szechuan Basin, as against only once a year in many other parts of Free China. It is carried on principally as a side-line by individual farmers. No large organized enterprise for silk-raising has ever been attempted. This accounts for the low efficiency in the methods of production and is mainly responsible for the meteoric downfall of the industry during the past few years in the face of serious Japanese competition in the overseas silk markets.

654 231 Recently, the Bureau of Agricultural Research of the Szechuan Provincial Government, in view of this grave situation and the serious effects it has on the general agricultural economy of the Basin, has taken rigorous measures to improve the methods of silk production. A number of silk-raising experimental stations and breeding centers have been established throughout the silk-producing areas, particularly in Nan-chung, Lo-shan, and Santai districts. In each district, numerous sub-stations have been organized to guide the farmers in silkworm raising, mulberry growing, and silk-making. Lo-shan alone has fifteen such stations. Other projects have also been launched to furnish more modern equipment and to organize the whole silk-production industry on a scientific basis.

231 438 Szechuan silk made a bid for world fame about eleven years ago in 1930, when 4,000 piculs were exported via Shanghai. This favorable condition was maintained for several years. Then a slump occurred due to the competition of Japanese silk and the increasing use of rayon. The war has presented a magnificent opportunity to revive sericulture in the Basin, while the boycott of the Japanese product in America since the American-Japanese war has now further stimulated export of silk from Free China. Szechuan today remains the only big silk center in the interior, as the silk colonies in Yunnan, Sikang, and Shensi are only beginning to export. With the growing American demand for Chinese silk, the Szechuan Silk Corporation is doing its best to increase its output.

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equipment, and the standardization of the finished product are most important.[1] 000

Recently, realizing the necessity of such improvements, the Bureau of Agricultural Research of Szechuan has established four model Tung tree experimental stations at Pei-ling, Nan-chung, Ning-shui, and Wan-hsien districts in order to direct the essential improvement work. With the author's experience among the tung farmers in the Basin, he feels strongly that it is probably wiser for the Agricultural authorities here to carry on the improvement work along the lines suggested above rather than aiming merely to boost the present acreage. Successful modern commercial agricultural production means high quality, as well as quantity. It would be heart-breaking to witness the same tragic fate befall the Tung tree, generously favored as it is by the Basin's physical conditions, that befell China's silk and tea. Nature has already done her part, and it is now up to man to do his. 314 654

C. The Wax Tree Production

1. The White Wax Tree

White wax, produced by the secretions of tiny insects, locally known as Pai-lou-chung (Coccus pela), on a number of wax trees or shrubs, is another unique forestry product of the Szechuan Basin. The so-called wax trees or shrubs consist of over ten species, including both conifers and broad-leafed hardwoods. One particular species of conifer, locally known as Pai-Lou-Shu (Fraxinus Chinensis), is the most important and the most common species on which the wax insects are raised. 314

There are two main species of wax insects: Shan Ti Tsung, or the hilly insects, including breeds produced in Hui-li, Hsi-chang, Ning-yuan,[2] and Kuan-hsien districts, and Pa-Tsung, or insects of the plain areas, including breeds produced in O-mei, Lo-shan, Chien-wei, and Hung-ya districts (Fig. 36). Generally speaking, the plain insects are inferior in quality and are not used for breeding purposes. Also, it is reported[3] that in the 136

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[1] Chao, op. cit., p. 24.

[2] Hui-li, Hsi-chang, and Ning-yuan districts are now under the jurisdiction of Sikang province.

[3] Ho, op. cit., p. 15.